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## MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, October 2, 2008

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### Should Virginia Regulate Sign Language Interpreters?

*Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation invites  
public comment, hosts regional hearings*

**RICHMOND** – The Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation (BPOR) will host regional public hearings to solicit comment on the sign language and transliterator industry. In response to a request from the Advisory Board of the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, BPOR is reviewing whether Virginia should regulate interpreters, who transmit spoken English into American Sign Language, and transliterators, who transmit spoken English into one of several English-oriented varieties of manual communications.

BPOR is authorized by statute to assess the need to regulate professions and occupations in the Commonwealth. In determining the appropriate level of regulation, BPOR must determine the extent to which an unregulated service poses a hazard to the public's health, safety or welfare. [*Code of Virginia* §54.1-310.A.6, §54.1-311]

Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

#### **HAMPTON**

**Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

City of Hampton Council Chambers  
22 Lincoln Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

#### **RICHMOND**

**Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation  
9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (Board Room 2)

#### **ROANOKE**

**Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

City of Roanoke Council Chambers  
Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building  
215 Church Avenue, SW, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

#### **ARLINGTON**

**Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

Arlington County Government Center  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Room 307

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**FISHERSVILLE**

**Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center  
Watsons Activities Building, 394 Hornet Road

Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the Department at (804) 367-8537 at least seven days prior to the meeting. The Department complies fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The 60-day public comment period begins October 13, 2008, and ends December 12, 2008. To submit comments in writing, e-mail [bpor@dpwr.virginia.gov](mailto:bpor@dpwr.virginia.gov) or mail to:

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**About DPOR and the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation:**

The Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation is responsible for directing regulatory policy, research, and analysis; administering the regulatory system for professions and occupations approved by the legislature; monitoring the state's regulatory climate; and conducting studies as directed by the General Assembly.

The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) oversees the administrative functions of the Board and provides staff support. The agency licenses or certifies more than 300,000 individuals and businesses in nearly 40 occupations and professions ranging from architects and contractors to cosmetologists and real estate agents.

For more information, visit DPOR online at [www.dpor.virginia.gov](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov).